



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/700,496	02/23/2001	Ingman Dov	1259	5482
7590	06/07/2004		EXAMINER WANG, SHENGJUN	
Edward Langer Landon & Stark Associates One Crystal Park Suite 2011 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA 22202			ART UNIT 1617	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/700,496

Applicant(s)

DOV ET AL.

Examiner

Shengjun Wang

Art Unit

1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-106 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-8 and 63-92,106 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,9-62 and 93-105 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The request filed on June 17, 2004 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/700,496 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

1. Applicants' election in the parent application is presumed to carry over to the instant CPA since applicants have not indicated a contrary intention. Applicant's election with traverse of invention VIII, the structure for using in disinfection application in Paper No. 6. Therefore, claims 5-8, 63-92 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 6. Claim 106 is withdrawn from further consideration as it is drawn to subject matter patentably distinct from the elected invention for following reasons.

2. Inventions group VIII (elected) and group IX, claim 106, as well as claims 63-78, are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case the process as claimed can be used to make other materially different product, such as for making modified silica gel for chromatography.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 1617

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 94-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claimed subject matter herein lack support from the specification or claims as originally filed. Following are examples that without support from specification as originally filed: "semi-metal/metal oxide nano-particle;" "partially alkylated SiO₂," and which absorb or covalently bound to other metal oxide molecules". Note disclosed species, SiO₂, Al₂O₃, and TiO₂ or "methylated," can not support the genus/subgenus of semi-metal/metal oxide, or "alkylated." The examiner also fails to find support from the specification for the subject matters recited in claims 103-105, particularly, the biological functions recited therein.

5. Claims 1-4, 9-62 and 93-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims recited a nanoparticles with various technique features, such as methylated, with certain percentage of surface groups, with particular IR absorption, with particular protrusions, and with etched interconnected interior channels etc. (see claims 1-63). However, the specification, or the claims fails to provide proper written description as to how to obtain such nanoparticles for practicing the instant claimed invention. One of ordinary skill in the art would be required to perform undue experimentation to make and/or use the invention.

Art Unit: 1617

6. The instant specification fails to provide information that would allow the skilled artisan to practice the instant invention without undue experimentation. Attention is directed to *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ 2d 1400 (CAFC 1988) at 1404 where the court set forth the eight factors to consider when assessing if a disclosure would have required undue experimentation. Citing *Ex parte Forman*, 230 USPQ 546 (BdApls 1986) at 547 the court recited eight factors:

- 1) the quantity of experimentation necessary,
- 2) the amount of direction or guidance provided,
- 3) the presence of absence of working examples,
- 4) the nature of the invention,
- 5) the state of the prior art,
- 6) the relative skill of those in the art,
- 7) the predictability of the art, and
- 8) the breadth of the claims.

The claim recites nanoparticles with various technique features, such as methylated, with certain percentage of surface groups, with particular IR absorption, with particular protrusions, and with etched interconnected interior channels etc. (see claims 1-63). Applicants fail to provide information allowing skilled artisan to ascertain these compounds without undue experimentation. The claims also recited numerous functional features, such as those recited in claims 14-16, 38-59, fails to provide any guidance, direction, or working examples, as how to realize the claimed function. Nano-technology, particularly, the application in biology and pharmacology, is fairly new to one of ordinary skill in the art. A great effort has been devoted to the development of such technology recently in the art. Many of such works made great

Art Unit: 1617

contribution in the art and may actually present patentable distinct subject matters (See, e.g., Caruso et al. Science; Wellinghoff et al. , WO 98/13008; Fernandez et al. US application 2001/0051189). Therefore, the art in nano-technology is unpredictable. It is noted that no working example was provided in the specification. In view of the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, and the unpredictability of the art, applicants have not provide sufficient guidance, or direction and one of ordinary skill of those in the art would not be able to practice the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

7. Claims 1-63 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims recite a biological tissue. However, the specification or the claims provide no information as to what is the biological tissue. One skilled artisan would not be able to practice the claimed invention without the access to the biological tissue. See MPEP 2402, 2403 regarding the rules for deposition of biological materials.

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-4, 9-62 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

10. Claim 1 recites a biological media structure. The specification or the claims do not provide a clear definition as to the "structure." Note subject matter eligible to be patented are "process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter. See, 35 U.S.C. 101. Given broad

Art Unit: 1617

interpretation, the claims are treated as a composition claims. However, claim as written is confusing as to what subject matter is claimed. Applicants are advised to employ the phrase “composition,” or other terms as defined by 35 U.S.C. 101.

11. Claim 1 recite “a three sided biological system,” there is no clear definition, or explanation as to what is the ‘three-sided’ biological system. The claims are indefinite as to the biological system encompassed thereby.

12. The term "substantially," in claim 2, “approximately,” in claim 13, 35, “adequately and selectively” in claim 45, “stable,” in claim 49, “slow” in claim 57, are relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The terms are not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably appraised of the scope of the invention.

13. Claim 59 recites “lock and key” system, the specification or the claims no not provide clear definition of the “lock and key’ system. The claim is indefinite as to the system encompassed thereby.

14. Where applicant acts as his or her own lexicographer to specifically define a term of a claim contrary to its ordinary meaning, the written description must clearly redefine the claim term and set forth the uncommon definition so as to put one reasonably skilled in the art on notice that the applicant intended to so redefine that claim term. *Process Control Corp. v. HydReclaim Corp.*, 190 F.3d 1350, 1357, 52 USPQ2d 1029, 1033 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The term “metal oxide” in claim 96 is used by the claim to mean “SiO₂”, while the accepted meaning is “semi-metal.” The term is indefinite because the specification does not clearly redefine the term.

Art Unit: 1617

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

15. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

16. Claims 1, 2, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by a yeast tablet. Note objects have three sides are in cylinder, or tablet shape, similar as sphere is one side, and cone has two sides. The yeast tablet comprising yeast (a biological tissue), carrier (surrounding media) and, reasonably expected, particles. Note the particles as recited herein read on any compounds having oxygen atoms.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claims 1-4, 9-62 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (US 6,066,328) and Buseti et al. (US 6,190,692) in view of Margulis (WO 97/44278) and Murphy et al. (US 6,399,785).

19. Ribier et al. and Buseti et al. teach that the employment of nanoparticles as controll-release carrier for bioactive ingredients, such as antimicrobial agents is well known in the art. See, particularly, column 5, lines 48-67, and claims 19-20 in Ribier et al; and column 3, lines 15-40, column 5, line 25-30, column 7, lines 20-32 and the claims.

Art Unit: 1617

20. The references do not teach expressly that the nanoparticle is hydrated oxide, or the surface of the nanoparticle being modified.

21. However, any compounds containing oxygen could be considered as oxide, and a solid surface in contacting with water would be hydrated. Further, Murphy et al. teach that surface modified nanoparticles are known to be useful for control release purpose. See, particularly, column 5, lines 43-47, column 8, lines 44-47. Margulis et al. teaches an inorganic oxide nanoparticles. See, particularly, the claims.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to make a antimicrobial disinfection composition comprising nanoparticles such as those disclosed by Margulis et al. or nanoparticles with optimized surface modification.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make a antimicrobial disinfection composition comprising nanoparticles such as those disclosed by Margulis et al. or nanoparticles with optimized surface modification because nanoparticles, including surface modified nanoparticles, are known to be useful in antimicrobial composition. The particular surface modification herein is seen to be an optimization of a result effective parameter, is considered within the skill of the artisan. See, In re Boesch and Slaney (CCPA) 204 USPQ 215. Note once an antimicrobial disinfection composition is used, the claimed structure including biological tissue, nanoparticles and media would be formed.

22. Claims 94-105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ribier et al. (US 6,066,328) and Buseti et al. (US 6,190,692) in view of Margulis (WO 97/44278) and

Art Unit: 1617

Murphy et al. (US 6,399,785), for reasons discussed above, in further view of Wellinghoff (WO 98/13008, of record) and Burns et al. (US 5,750,610).

23. Ribier et al. (US 6,066,328) and Buseti et al. (US 6,190,692), Margulis (WO 97/44278) and Murphy et al. (US 6,399,785), taken together, do not teach expressly nano-particle of semimetal/metal oxide nano-particle, such as SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 , and TiO_2 . However, Wellinghoff et al. teaches metal oxide-silica nano-particles wherein the surface thereof are modified with organic compounds which comprises both hydrophilic and hydrophobic moieties. See, particularly, the abstract, pages 5-7 and the claims. the nano-particles are useful for medical and dental purpose. See, particularly, page 1. Burns teaches that modification of the surface of silica particle by alkylation to adjust the hydrophilicity is known in the art. See, particularly, the abstract, columns 1-4 and the claims.

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed the invention was made, to make semi-metal/metal oxide nanoparticles with modified surface, such as by alkylation, and use the same for making antimicrobial compositions since metal/semi-metal oxide nanoparticles with modified surface are particularly known for medical purpose, and modification of silica particle by alkylation is well-known in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shengjun Wang, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-0632. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

Art Unit: 1617

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan, can be reached on (571)272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9302.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

SHENGJUN WANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER



Shengjun Wang

June 3, 2004